

Two bills recently introduced in the United States House of Representatives are in urgent need of your attention as they have the potential to cause critical, detrimental impact on the lives of Fort Peck Reservation area Native Americans who currently receive services through the federal workforce system. They are the "Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act of 2011" (H. R. 3610) introduced by Representative Foxx and the "Local Job Opportunities and Business Success Act of 2011" (H. R. 3611) introduced by Representative Heck. I strongly encourage this Commission to help the tribes by insuring that neither of these bills pass through Committee.

In my opinion and from my experience, Indian and Native American employment and training programs have a long history of successes by providing critical services to clients needing support as they strive for self-sufficiency by gaining the training and work experience they so desperately need. Also, the programs have played an important part in helping to improve the circumstances and situations of our Indian and Native American communities.

Native American employment and training programs date back to the late 1960 decade of federal manpower programs. They were authorized with the understanding that American Indian tribes are sovereign nations have a unique 'trust' relationship with the United States government. The Indian and Native American programs funded through the domestic employment and training system were financed to provide support and services to individuals who otherwise would not access the mainstream employment and training programs, whether due to remoteness or cultural considerations.

These two proposed bills, if enacted, would eliminate all employment and training funding for Indian and Native American grantees—including the Fort Peck Tribes—who presently receive annual monetary assistance under the Workforce Investment Act as well as Native Employment Works (NEW) funding. Also, if the noted two bills should become law, all workforce investment system funding would be distributed to states to be administered by the governors. Indian and Native American programs would not be guaranteed funding to provide the critical services needed by our disadvantaged clients to maintain their connection with the workforce. In

addition, H. R. 3610 would cause up to 1,000 nationwide Indian and Native American workforce professionals to be forced on to area unemployment rolls.

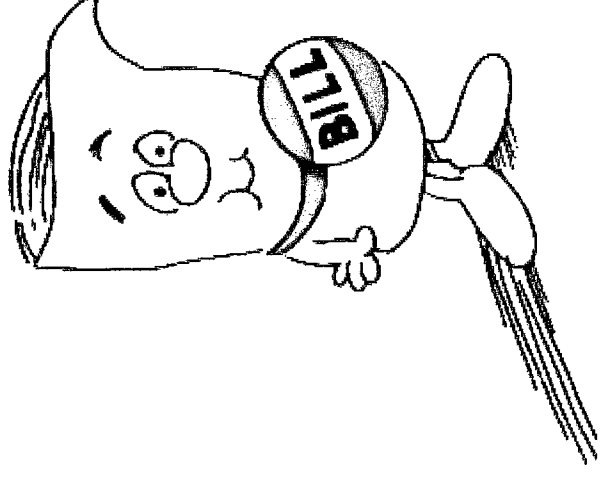
I strongly urge this Commission to take action to help defeat these proposed two Bills as they are considered in Committee. The lives of millions are at stake in this issue. It is imperative that strong Native American workforce programs, uniquely adapted to addressing and meeting the status and circumstances of economically disadvantaged Fort Peck Reservation Native people and communities, continues in our mission to improve the lives of our underprivileged and impacted clients and communities.

Thank you.

# WIA BILL: Local JOBS Act (HR 3611)

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- Introduced by Rep. Heck (R-NV);
- Requires 2/3 business majority for local WIBs
- Requires “sector partnerships,” but little guidance on implementing
- Mandates minimum training percentage on local level



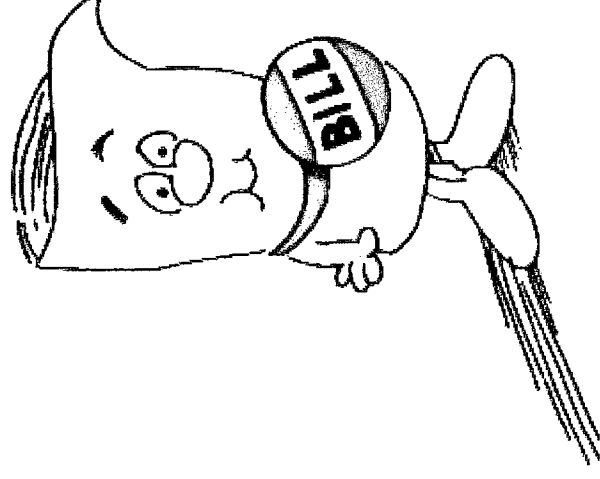
# Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act (cont.)

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- Creates new funding structure by consolidating 33 federal programs into four new funding streams

- ❖ *Workforce Investment Fund:*  
\$4.3B formula grants for general E&T activities
- ❖ *State Youth WIF:* \$1.9B for state competitive grants;
- ❖ *Veterans WIF:* \$218M for veterans activities;
- ❖ *Targeted Populations WIF:*  
\$581M for refugees and entrants, ex-offenders, farmworkers, Native Americans

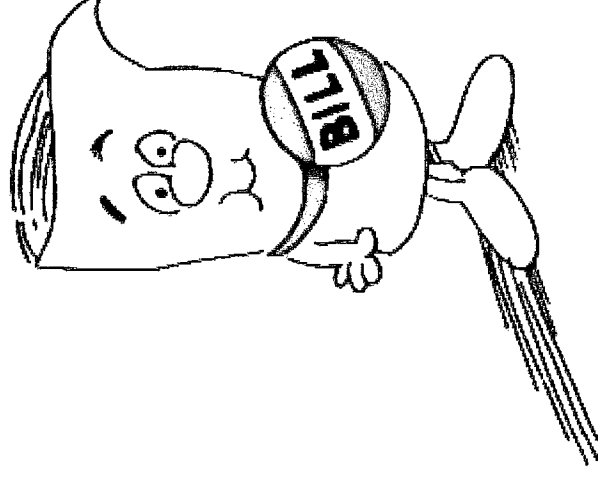
- \$7B authorized for FY 2013-2018 (capped)



# WIA BILL: Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act (HR 3610)

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- Introduced by Rep. Foxx (R-NC), subcommittee chair
  - ❖ Strengthens state role in workforce system
  - ❖ Requires 2/3 business majority on state WIB, eliminates partner requirements
  - ❖ Eliminates current local workforce areas, governor can designate new areas
  - ❖ Establishes common performance measures across new Title I funds, Title II, VR programs
  - ❖ Allows new unified state plan, can consolidate funds under unified plan





ASSINIBOINE & SIOUX TRIBES  
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